

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A shoe outsole comprising:
2 a member having an upper surface, a lower surface and a heel section, the member
3 further having an aperture in the heel section extending from the upper surface to the lower
4 surface; and
5 a resilient, flexible first cushion disposed on the upper surface of the member in the
6 heel section, the first cushion being shaped to protrude through the aperture.
- 1 2. The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the member comprises rubber.
- 1 3. The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the member comprises a
2 thermoplastic resin.
- 1 4. The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the member is formed by
2 molding.
- 1 5. The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the lower surface of the
2 member has a groove formed therein to enhance the flexibility of the member.
- 1 6. The shoe outsole according to claim 5 wherein the member has a width, and
2 the groove substantially traverses the width of the member.
- 1 7. The shoe outsole according to claim 5 wherein the member has a perimeter,
2 and the groove has a closed-loop shape substantially parallel to the perimeter of the member.
- 1 8. The shoe outsole according to claim 5 wherein the groove has a substantially
2 semi-circular shape.
- 1 9. The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the lower surface of the
2 member has a grid pattern formed therein to enhance the flexibility of the member.

1 10. The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the upper surface of the
2 member has a grid pattern formed therein to enhance the flexibility of the member.

1 11. The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the first cushion includes a
2 protrusion that protrudes through the aperture.

1 12. The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the first cushion comprises a
2 polymeric gelatinous material

1 13. The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the first cushion further
2 comprises a flexible, resilient sheet.

1 14. The shoe outsole according to claim 13 wherein the sheet comprises
2 polyurethane.

1 15. The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the upper surface of the
2 member includes a recessed area for receiving the first cushion.

1 16. The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the lower surface further
2 includes a recessed portion disposed around the aperture.

1 17. The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the member includes a
2 plurality of apertures.

1 18. The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the member further comprises
2 a sidewall along the heel section of the member, the sidewall including a cut-out portion.

1 19. The shoe outsole according to claim 18 wherein the cut-out portion is a slit.

1 20. The shoe outsole according to claim 18 further comprising
2 a second cushion disposed in the member adjacent to the cut-out portion.

1 21. The shoe outsole according to claim 20 wherein the second cushion is capable
2 of protruding through the cut-out portion.

1 22. A shoe outsole comprising:
2 a member having an upper surface, a lower surface, a heel section, and a sidewall
3 along the heel section, the member further having an aperture in the heel section extending
4 from the upper surface to the lower surface and a cut-out portion in the sidewall; and
5 a resilient, flexible cushion disposed on the upper surface of the member in the heel
6 section, the cushion being shaped to protrude through the aperture and to protrude through
7 the cut-out portion.

1 23. The shoe outsole according to claim 22 wherein the first cushion includes a
2 protrusion that protrudes through the aperture.

1 24. A shoe comprising:
2 an upper; and
3 and outsole permanently fixed to the upper, the outsole including
4 a member having an upper surface, a lower surface and a heel section, the member
5 further having an aperture in the heel section extending from the upper surface to the lower
6 surface; and
7 a resilient, flexible cushion disposed on the upper surface of the member in the heel
8 section, the cushion being shaped to protrude through the aperture.

1 25. The shoe according to claim 24 wherein the first cushion includes a protrusion
2 that protrudes through the aperture.